

## SUMMARY

This quarterly report is the 66<sup>th</sup> in a series concerning safety and environmental protection matters related to ports and shipping. Highlights include:

1. The 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 48) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was held at IMO Headquarters in London from October 7-11, 2002. Significant accomplishments at MEPC include: (a) further development of a draft international convention for the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments that incorporates major concepts introduced by the United States; (b) development of a draft resolution on limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping; (c) further development of draft guidelines for recycling (scrapping) of ships that are intended to assist in addressing concerns related to impacts on the environment and on occupational safety and health; (d) approval and adoption as an MEPC resolution of the guidelines on survey and certification for anti-fouling systems on ships; and (e) adoption of amendments to the list of substances annexed to the 1973 Intervention Protocol. (Item 1-B)
2. The 85<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Legal Committee was held at IMO Headquarters in London on October 22-24 and 28, 2002. Among its more significant actions, the LEG: (a) considered proposed amendments by the United States to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention) and to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf (SUA Protocol); (b) continued work on the draft convention on wreck removal (WRC); and (c) continued consideration of issues with respect to liability and compensation regarding claims for death, personal injury, and abandonment of seafarers. (Item 1-C)
3. On September 18, 2002, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13274 titled *Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Infrastructure Project Reviews*. The purpose of this order is to enhance environmental stewardship and streamline the environmental review and development of transportation infrastructure projects. (Item 2-A)
4. On November 25, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-295). The Office of Senator Ernest F. Hollings has stated that this legislation: (a) integrates the myriad of federal, state, local, and private law enforcement agencies overseeing the security of the international borders at U.S. seaports; (b) authorizes more security officers, more screening equipment, and the building of important security infrastructure at seaports; and (c) provides for a national system for securing the Marine Transportation System (MTS). (Item 2-B)
5. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has developed a guidance document titled *Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of the Full and Partial Dismantling of Ships*. The guidelines are applicable to existing ship dismantling facilities as well as to new facilities. They provide information and recommendations on procedures, processes, and practices that must be implemented to attain environmentally

sound management at such facilities. The guidelines also provide advice on monitoring and verification of environmental performance. (Item 4-B)

6. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a Strategic Plan for Homeland Security. EPA's traditional mission has expanded to include protecting the nation against the environmental and health consequences of acts of terrorism. The goals of this Strategic Plan are organized as follows: (a) critical infrastructure protection; (b) preparedness, response, and recovery; (c) communication and information; and (d) protection of EPA personnel and infrastructure. (Item 4-C)
7. The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) has published a report titled *Invasive Species: Clearer Focus and Greater Commitment Needed to Effectively Manage the Problem*. The objectives in preparing this report were to: (a) assess the usefulness of analyses that have estimated the economic impact of invasive species in the United States; (b) assess the National Invasive Species Management Plan; (c) provide the views of experts on the adequacy of U.S. and Canadian federal government efforts to prevent the introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes via ballast water of ships; and (d) describe how the United States and Canada are coordinating invasive species management efforts. (Item 4-D)
8. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) has published the report of its Independent Task Force on Homeland Security Imperatives. The report outlines a number of homeland security priorities that should be pursued with the same sense of urgency and national purpose as U.S. overseas exertions. One such priority concerns recalibrating the agenda for transportation security. The Task Force believes that the vulnerabilities are greater and the stakes are higher in the sea and land modes than in commercial aviation. (Item 4-E)
9. President George W. Bush, together with other Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders, has launched the Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative, which is designed to enhance security while increasing trade. The STAR initiative commits APEC economies to accelerate action on screening people and cargo for security before transit; increasing security on ships and airplanes while en route; and enhancing security in airports and seaports. (Item 4-F)

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<http://www.marad.dot.gov> (under publications); <http://www.marad.dot.gov/nmrec> (under environmental information); and <http://www.socp.org> (highlights or under publications).